GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3259
ANSWERED ON:21.03.2007
SHORTAGE OF OFFICERS FOR INDIAN FLAG OFFICERS
Saroj Shri Tufani

Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a shortage of officers to man the Indian Flag Vessels;

(b) if so, the details thereof, port-wise;

(c) the steps taken by the Government to reduce the shortage of officers;

(d) the time by which the shortage would be filled up;

(e) whether Jawahar Lal Port Trust has sought any permission from the Government to stop the loading and unloading work for a certain time period due to the shortage of captains;

(f) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto;

(g) whether the captains of public sector ports are joining the private sector ports;

(h) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(i) the steps taken by the Government to check this trend and to improve the skill of Indian Crew?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T. R. BAALU)

(a) to (d): In view of the acute shortage of Indian officers, the Government is considering a proposal to allow foreign officers to work on Indian ships subject to certain conditions in consultation with the shipping industry. Ships are owned by Indian Shipping Companies and not ports.Therefore, it will not be possible to work out the port-wise shortage of officers.

(e)&(f) : Jawaharlal Nehru Port Trust has not sought any permission from the Government to stop loading and unloading work for a certain period of time as no such stoppage has been envisaged.

(g) to(i) : The emoluments and working conditions for the Pilots in Private Sector Ports are reported to be more attractive and hence, there is a trend for the pilots to leave the port service. The Major Ports, therefore, manage their work by engaging pilots on contractual basis. Pay scales of officers of the Major Ports including pilots are revised periodically.The next pay revision is due with effect from 01.01.2007. There is no separate proposal with the Government to revise the pay scale of these pilots.